CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A method for overriding an ejection lock acting upon a storage

2   medium drive, the method comprising:

3   detecting manipulation of an ejection control element that signals an intent to

4   override the ejection lock; and

5   overriding the ejection lock to enable storage medium ejection.

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein detecting an active state of the

2   ejection lock comprises detecting an active software-controlled lock operated by a

3   computer operating system.

1   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein detecting manipulation of an ejection

2   control element comprises detecting atypical manipulation of an ejection control

3   element used to eject storage media under normal operating conditions.

1   4.   The method of claim 3, wherein detecting atypical manipulation of an

2   ejection control element comprises detecting atypical manipulation of an eject button

3   provided on a front panel of the storage medium drive.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, wherein detecting atypical manipulation of an

2   eject button comprises detecting depression and holding of the button.

1   6.   The method of claim 4, wherein detecting atypical manipulation of an

2   eject button comprises detecting multiple presses of the button that occur within a

3   predetermined time period.

1   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein overriding the ejection lock comprises

2   executing a command stored in memory of the storage medium drive that overrides a

3   lock command imposed by a computer operating system.

1   .   8.   The method of claim 1, further comprising ejecting the storage

2   medium.

1   9.   A system for overriding an ejection lock, the system comprising:

2   means for detecting manipulation of an ejection control element used to eject

3   storage media under normal operating conditions, the manipulation indicating a user

4   desire to override the software-based lock; and

5   means for overriding the software-based lock to enable storage medium

6   ejection in response to the detected manipulation.

1   10.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for determining comprise

2   means for determining whether a computer operating system has imposed the

3   software-based lock on the drive.

1   11.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for detecting manipulation

2   of an ejection control element comprise means for detecting at least one of pressing

3   and holding the ejection control element and pressing the ejection control element

4   multiple times.

1   12.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for overriding comprise

2   commands stored within and executed by the storage medium drive.

1   13.   The system of claim 9, wherein the means for overriding comprise

2   means for ejecting the storage medium.

1   14.   A system stored on a computer-readable medium, the system

2   comprising:

3   logic configured to monitor the state of a storage medium drive to determine

4   whether a software-based lock that prevents ejection is acting upon the drive;

5   logic configured to monitor manipulation of a drive eject button; and

6   logic configured to detect atypical manipulation of the eject button that

7   communicates a desire to override the software-based lock.

1   15.   The system of claim 14, wherein the logic configured to monitor

2   manipulation of a drive eject button comprises logic configured to monitor a front

3   panel eject button used to eject storage media from the storage medium drive under

4   normal operating conditions.

1   16.   The system of claim 14, wherein the logic configured to detect atypical

2   manipulation of the eject button is configured to detect depression and holding of the

3   button.

1   17.   The system of claim 14, the logic configured to detect atypical

2   manipulation of the eject button is configured to detect multiple presses of the button

3   that occur within a predetermined time period.

1   18.   The system of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to

2   override the software-based lock to enable storage medium ejection when an

3   appropriate atypical manipulation is detected.

1   19.   The system of claim 14, further comprising logic configured to eject

2   the storage medium.

1   20.   A storage medium drive, comprising:

2   a storage medium ejection mechanism;

3   an eject button that is used to activate the ejection mechanism under normal

4   operating conditions;

5   a processor; and

6   memory containing ejection lock override logic, the override logic being

7   configured to detect an atypical manipulation of the eject button that signals a desire

8   to override an ejection lock that has been imposed upon the storage medium drive, the

9   override logic further being configured to eject a storage medium upon detection of

10 that atypical manipulation.

1   21.   The drive of claim 20, wherein the eject button is a finger-activated

2   button that is provided in a front panel of the storage medium drive.

1   22.   The drive of claim 20, wherein the drive is a compact disc (CD) drive.

1   23.   The drive of claim 20, wherein the drive is a floppy disk drive.

1   24.   A computer system, comprising:

2   a system processor;

3   system memory including an operating system; and

4   a storage medium drive including an eject button that is used to eject storage

5 media from the drive under normal operating conditions and drive memory containing

6 ejection lock override logic that is configured to detect atypical manipulation of the

7 eject button that signals a desire to override an ejection lock that has been imposed

8 upon the storage medium drive by the operating system.

1   25.   The computer system of claim 24, wherein the storage medium drive is

2 a compact disc (CD) drive.